

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 9-26 will remain pending in the above-identified application, with claims 9-11 and 18-26 standing ready for further action on the merits, and remaining claims 12-17 will stand withdrawn from consideration based on the response made herein to the outstanding restriction requirement of the USPTO.

In the instant reply claims 9-10 and 12-15 have been amended, new claims 17-26 have been added, and non-elected claims 1-8 have been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve their rights to file a divisional application on non-elected claims 1-8 (*now canceled*).

In this Amendment, claim 9 has been amended to recite limitations in canceled claim 1 and further amended so that the laser-absorbing part is formed on at least part of one surface of the resin layer and is capable of absorbing the laser beam. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0042] of the present specification (*which is reproduced immediately below*).

Incidentally, the distribution pattern of the absorbing part is not particularly limited to a specific one, and the absorbing part may be distributed over the whole of one surface of the resin layer, distributed as a uniform or ununiform layer structure, or wholly or partially distributed or scattered (or dispersed) on a surface of the resin layer. Moreover, the absorbing part may be distributed in a specific shape (or configuration), for example, a linear form, a curved form, a circular form, and a polygonal form, or may be a shape (or configuration) which is coordinated with the irradiation position of the laser beam (for example, a shape such as a plurality of parallel lines, or a lattice form). Among these distribution forms, a layered absorbing part (or absorbing body or absorbing layer) is usually formed on one surface of the resin layer in many cases. The absorbing layer may be sufficient to contain the laser beam absorbent, usually may comprise a resin composition containing the laser beam absorbent and a resin (a base resin). Moreover, the absorbing layer or film may be a coating layer containing the laser beam absorbent.

Withdrawn claims 12-15 have also been amended to direct to the shaped composite article in conformity with instantly amended claim 9.

Regarding newly added claims 17-26 the following support is noted. Newly added claim 17 finds support in paragraphs [0027] and [0065] of the specification; claim 18 finds support in paragraph [0071] of the application; claim 19 finds support in paragraph [0042] of the specification; claims 20-21 find support in original claims 2-3, respectively; claim 22 finds support in paragraphs [0028] and [0031] of the specification; and claims 23-26 find support in original claims 5-8, respectively.

Accordingly, the present amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the application as originally filed. As such entry of the instant amendment and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited at present.

Unity of Invention – Restriction Requirement

Original pending claims 1-16 have been subject to a Unity of Invention restriction requirement 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 for allegedly reciting inventions or groups of inventions that are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. (*See page 2 of the outstanding Office Action.*) Applicants fully respond, *with traverse*, to the outstanding restriction requirement, as set forth hereinafter.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.499, the USPTO has required that the Applicants elect a single invention from the **Groups I-VI** set forth in the below listed items “a.” to “f.”

- a. Group I, Claims 1-6, drawn to a laser-weldable resin label;
- b. Group II, Claims 7 and 8, drawn to a laser-weldable resin label having a printed layer formed thereon;
- c. Group III, Claims 9-11, drawn to a laser-weldable resin label having a laser-absorbing part formed thereon;
- d. Group IV, Claim 12, drawn to a shaped composite article;
- e. Group V, Claims 13-15, drawn to a shaped composite article having a laser-absorbing part formed thereon;
- f. Group VI, Claim 16, drawn to a shaped composite article that is a toner cartridge.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Group III, Claims 9-11, drawn to a laser-weldable resin having a laser-adsorbing part formed thereon. The elected invention of Group III also encompasses newly added claims 18-26. The instant election is made with traverse.

Traverse is based on the provisions of MPEP § 803, which specifies that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner *must* examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Unity of Invention Requirement of claims 9-26 are respectfully requested.

Upon indication of allowable subject matter the USPTO is also requested to rejoin withdrawn claims 12-17, which are encompassed by Groups IV-VI set out above.

CONCLUSION

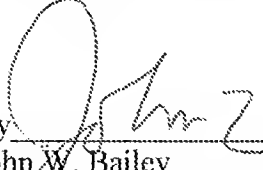
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey, Registration No 32,881 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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